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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

IPF:(1992-96) $23 200 000
(MAU/92/C01) (MAU/92/C02) (MAU/92/C03) (MAU/92/008) - Investment Programme

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Date of approval by the AC:[1]	17 September 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed cooperating agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Planning
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$10 800 000
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 2 500 000
Sources of funds:	IPF and UNCDF General Resources

Project background

Since 1981, UNCDF financed the construction/rehabilitation of 11 flood recession earth dams. These small dams allowed farmers to secure basic agricultural production to settle/migrate in the area and diversify their production from livestock. Several evaluations and surveys indicated those farmers were confronted with many constraints. In order to subsist and improve their standard of living other complementary investments were required: water supply, schools, health posts, credit, etc. together with management support to improve agricultural practices, management of flood water and rangelands, protection from sand dunes, regular mechanical maintenance. The proposed regional investment programme was identified by UNCDF in 1992.

Description of project

The regional investment programme is comprised of four interrelated capital investment projects financed by UNCDF and a technical assistance project financed by UNDP to establish a project management unit (PMU). The main outputs for each project can be summarized as follows:

MAU/92/C01: reconstruction of four earth dams; improvement of production, diversification and marketing techniques in 15 earth dams (old and new); establishment of a micro-project investment fund to finance economic and community identified priority projects (cereal banks, bridges, small shops, women horticulture); community participation in designing and negotiation with regional authorities and the PMU local development contracts for village land management.

MAU/92/C02: maintenance of 11 dams already constructed through community participation and the rural engineering brigade; stabilization of 600 hectares of sand dunes, reforestation of 700 hectares and protection of 2,700 hectares of pastoral and agricultural land using community management schemes.

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[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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MAU/92/C03: construction of 54 shallow wells and 16 deep tube wells equipped with hand pumps; construction and equipping of 20 primary schools, 15 health post and a dispensary.
MAU/92/C04: establishment of a technical unit within the Kiffa municipality; establish a Municipal development fund; promote local private enterprises.
MAU/92/008 (UNDP): Establish a transitory Programme Management Unit (PMU) in Kiffa which will consist of a team of international and national experts who will have the delegated authority from the Government to execute the investment programme on its behalf. The main task will be to negotiate development contracts with the beneficiary communities; to subcontract regional government services, private enterprises, NGOs, to coordinate the intervention of the different executing institutions and insure transparency of management and accountability of the funds.

Inputs

The Government of Mauritania will finance the project to the extent of (US) $0.6 million to cover local costs including suitable counterpart staff, and the staff of the different regional technical delegations (agricultural extension services, livestock services, environmental protection services, water supply department, rural engineer service etc.) of the concerned ministries. It will also provide the resources required to maintain the earth dams once they are reconstructed.

UNCDF will provide the required capital investment to subcontract, through international competitive bidding, the private enterprise to construct the earth dams, several subcontracts will be financed to implement activities such as sand dune stabilization, improvement of agricultural and livestock techniques, construction of wells, boreholes, schools and technical assistance to create local capacity at the community and municipal level. UNCDF will also finance the establishment of a local investment fund both in rural and urban areas and will purchase the necessary communication and transportation equipment, handpumps and health equipment. Project formulation and regular UNCDF monitoring and evaluation costs, contingencies and programme support costs are also included. The total contribution of UNCDF is (US)$10.8 million.

UNDP will provide the technical assistance team and resources to establish a PMU in Kiffa to execute and coordinate the investment programme. The UNDP contribution of (US)$2.5 million will finance the costs of a project manager, a rural engineer, 2 UNVs, a national director, a national agronomist, 4 participatory/local development national experts and support staff: accountant secretaries and drivers. Operation costs, training, consultants and equipment will also be covered.

Financial data

	UNCDF	UNDP
Missions (formulation, audit, monitoring)	80 000	20 000
Subcontracts:		
Levies and earth dam construction	4 940 000	
Dykes and earth dam rehabilitation	480 000	
Rural extension services	200 000	
Environmental protection	500 000	
Fund for community micro-projects	500 000	
Watershed basin development	470 000	
Water supply, schools and health posts	1 930 000	
Technical department Kiffa municipality	270 000	
Municipal investment fund	60 000	
Equipment (office, vehicles, communication)	170 000	40 000
International personnel		1 300 000
National personal/support staff		540 000
Maintenance and operation costs		360 000
Contingency/Agency overhead and support	120 000	240 000
Total	10 800 000	2 500 000

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